



BRITISH COLUMBIA MOUNTAIN GOAT SOCIETY

SMITHERS BC CANADA

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Mountain Goat Dispersal Survey Report

April 3, 2018

Thanks to all the local residents who reported sightings of mountain goats dispersing through forests from one mountain to another. The following is our summary report. We have plotted the locations of all sightings on Google Earth. If you would like to receive some or all of the waypoints, please let us know and we will email them to you.

As you can see, we have some very interesting sightings. The Dispersal 8 location is a long way from a route between mountains and the three goats of Dispersal 18 walked right through the middle of Smithers! All reports were in summer unless indicated in comments. We also have some repeat sightings indicating dispersal corridors.

Our major interest in this project was to learn if mountain goats are having problems while dispersing, We did not receive any reports of mountain goats in trouble, such as getting tangled in barbed wire fences or attacked by dogs. On a positive note we did receive several reports of mountain goats that swam across very treacherous rivers. So all in all, the sightings indicate that local mountain goats are capable of dispersing without problems.

The number of sightings reported gives us a rough idea of the total number of dispersals over the last decade. The 23 sightings must be a very small portion of the total number of dispersals.

In the future, we welcome any additional sightings of mountain goat dispersals. So if you hear of more sightings, please let us know.

Yours truly,

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Report ID	Location	Comments
Dispersal 1	36 km on Suskwa Forest Service Road east of New Hazelton	Logging truck drivers put up “Goat Alley” sign to warn drivers of goats crossing road. At least one goat was hit by truck.
Dispersal 2	Hubert Hill near Highway 16 south of Telkwa	Goat hair was found hanging on brush
Dispersal 3	Bulkley River upstream from mouth of Trout Creek north of Smithers	Single young goat stayed around fishing hole for a day
Dispersal 4	Kispiox Valley Road above First Cabin	Single goat crosses road
Dispersal 5	Kispiox Valley Road above 19 mile bridge	Single goat crosses road
Dispersal 6	Telkwa High Road near Moricetown	Single goat walked past farm house toward river
Dispersal 7	Mulwain Forest Service Road near Paleo Peak west of Smithers	Single goat ran 1 km down road ahead of car then turned off
Dispersal 8	Junction of Bulkey and Morice Rivers near Houston	Single goat browsing at top of mud bluff on edge of river
Dispersal 9	North side of Reisetser Bridge on Telkwa High Road	Single goat on north side of creek in winter
Dispersal 10	Reisetser Bridge on Telkwa High Road	Single goat looking confused on the bridge
Dispersal 11	South of Tenas Hill in the Kispiox Valley	Single goat was drinking on west bank of the Skeena River then headed back west
Dispersal 12	Bluff Road near Tyhee Lake	Single goat stayed on bluff for 3 months from mid April until July
Dispersal 13	Mile 19 bluff on Morice River Forest Service Road south of Houston	Goats stayed on bluff for the summer – may be canyon goats in residence
Dispersal 14	Highway 16 between Moricetown and Smithers	Single goat crossed the highway headed east toward the Bulkley River
Dispersal 15	At the Golf Course north of Smithers	Single goat crossed Highway 16 headed east toward the Bulkley River
Dispersal 16	Bulkley Canyon south of Hazelton	Single goat on one side of a class 4 rapids one day and spotted on the opposite shore the next day
Dispersal 17	Big Slide Canyon on the Babine River north of Babine Lake	Single goats spotted on two different days
Dispersal 18	Rock bluff above the railway station in Smithers	Three goats were tracked from east of Smithers through town streets to the bluff in winter with 24 inches of snow on the ground
Dispersal 19	Bluff Road near Tyhee Lake east of Telkwa	Single goat on bluff in summer

Dispersal 20	Aspen Rec Site at 23 km on Morice Forest Service Road south of Houston	Single goat at edge of the Morice River in winter
Dispersal 21	Anderson Flat on the Bulkley River near South Hazelton	Single goat seen several times browsing along river
Dispersal 22	Coalmine and Aveling Coalmine Rd west of Telkwa	Single goat ran down road ahead of car then turned off
Dispersal 23	36 km on Suskwa Forest Service Road east of New Hazelton	Single goat ran down road ahead of car then turned off